

Sports

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KENDALL'S KORNER

Minor lacrosse has problems



Vernon Minor Lacrosse Association will hold its second registration of the year tonight in the Vernon Civic Arena.

Although senior lacrosse is quickly approaching the popularity it had in this 20 years ago, minor lacrosse is on the verge of dying.

The blame can't be put in any one place but it is a fact that minor lacrosse registration has decreased in Vernon every year for the last five years.

Minor lacrosse in Kelowna is making a comeback in a big way this year. A reported 150 boys have registered in the Regatta City while only about 25 boys signed up at Vernon's first registration last week.

The Vernon senior lacrosse club, hopefully with the help of some interested parents, are attempting to get the minors flourishing again.

While the game is growing in most parts of Canada with a six-team professional league started in the East, lacrosse could very well die out here in five or six years.

The senior players are all between 20 and 26 and there are few teenage players in the minor system who are going to be available to fill in for the seniors when they retire.

There appears to be only two answers to the problem. Either minor lacrosse will once again become popular in Vernon within the next couple years, or else Vernon will probably say goodbye to lacrosse forever by 1980.

Let's hope the latter does not happen.

Vernon has a proud lacrosse history with great championship teams through the 1940's and 1950's with players like Bert Bertoia, Roly and Sarge Sammartino, Ben Douglas, and Norm Ogasawara.

It would be a shame to see the sport die in Vernon.

CRICKET FLOURISHING

While minor lacrosse is having its problems, cricket appears to be regaining the popularity it had in Vernon between 1945 and 1965.

One of the organizers of the new Vernon Cricket Team told the Daily News that once upon a time there were three cricket teams in the city and hundreds of fans turned out regularly to watch the games.

Despite being formed only a few weeks ago, the Vernon club already has nearly a full roster and attracted many fans to its first home game 10 days ago at Harwood School.

It is great to see some men who love a game so much that they take the time and initiative to get a team started themselves.

Particularly in 1974 when you won't get an athlete to put on his uniform for under \$25,000 a year.

BITS AND PIECES

... No official word yet on the sale of Vernon Vikings Junior A Hockey Club.

Rumor has it that the Calgary group, apparently headed by Calgary Centennials owner Scotty Munro, is the most likely to get the team if the present owners decide to sell.

One thing I wonder about is if Munro realizes that if he does buy the Vikings, he will probably get hit for much higher arena rental charges.

The local groups using the arena are paying considerably more this year for the arena than in 1973, so the city would probably hit an absentee owner even harder.

... Local rodeo fans will get a chance to see Vernon's great Kenny McLean in action next weekend at the Head of the Lake Rodeo.

... Vernon Jaycees apparently came up with a great idea when they decided to head up minor football. It has gone over so well, the Jaycees are getting a little worried if they are going to be able to accommodate all the registrations which are expected.

... Congratulations to Helen Inglis who recently became the first woman to get a hole-in-one at Spallumcheen Golf Course. Helen did it on the par three, fifth hole. Only three men have recorded holes-in-one at the course since it opened in 1972.